

Hepton Rural District Council

Annual **REPORT**

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1947

HEBDEN BRIDGE :
KERSHAW & ASHWORTH LTD., MARKET STREET



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b2942186x>

Hepton Rural District Council

Annual **REPORT**

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1947

HEBDEN BRIDGE :

KERSHAW & ASHWORTH LTD., MARKET STREET

HEPTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre, Todmorden.

November, 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hepton Rural District Council

Sir and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the Hepton Rural District for the year 1947.

In accordance with the provisions of the Ministry of Health Circulars 13/47 of 13th March, 1947, and 170 47 of 31st December, 1947, the report has been curtailed, and is an interim report.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year:—

Estimated Resident Civilian Population 1947, 3,812.

Live	}				Total	M.	F.
Births		Legitimate	...	...	53	18	35
		Illegitimate	...	...	4	1	3
Still	}	Legitimate	...	...	2	2	—
Births		Illegitimate	...	...	0	0	0

				Total	M.	F.
Deaths	...	...	...	51	27	24

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:

				Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1917

Based on Registrar-General's Figures.

	Hepton Rural District	Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Admin. County.	England and Wales. (Provisional figures)
BIRTH RATE :- (per 1,000 estimated population)	15.0	21.3	21.5	20.5
DEATH RATES :- (All per 1,000 estimated population) All Causes	13.4	11.0	12.3	12.0
Zymotic Diseases (seven principal) *	Nil	0.16	0.16	**
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0.26	0.41	0.39	0.47
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	Nil	0.11	0.09	0.08
Respiratory Diseases :- (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	0.79	1.23	1.37	**
Cancer	1.05	1.59	1.80	1.85
Heart and Circulatory Diseases †	4.46	3.25	3.98	**
INFANT MORTALITY :- (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	Nil	47	45	41
DIARRHOEA : (Deaths in infants under two years of age per 1,000 live births)	Nil	5.74	5.31	5.8
MATERNAL MORTALITY :- (Deaths of mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still births) Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	0.11	0.21	0.26
Other Causes	16.95	1.63	1.07	0.91
TOTAL	16.95	1.74	1.28	1.17

* Combined death rate from Smallpox (if any), Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, Diphtheria, Measles, Whooping Cough, also Diarrhoea in infants under 2 years of age.

† Combined death rate from Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases, excluding Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.

‡ Combined death rate from Heart Disease and other Diseases of the Circulatory System.

** Figures not available.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

The Medical Officer of Health is also a Divisional Medical Officer under the West Riding County Council's scheme.

The Sanitary Officer is a full-time Officer; and other Public Health Officers, such as Veterinary Surgeons, Public Analysts, etc., come under the control of the West Riding County Council.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME

This is principally carried out by the two District Nurses attached to the Hebden Bridge District Nursing Institution. These two Nurses are qualified both in General and Maternity Nursing. They attend confinements at a small fixed fee. Arrangements are now in force whereby a Nurse can be provided by the West Riding County Council for the nursing of infectious diseases in the home, in the event of there being no hospital accommodation for such cases.

The Institution receives a subsidy from the Ministry of Health towards the cost of running the Maternity Service. It has no connection with the Local Authority. Midwives: The two District Nurses referred to are the only practising midwives in the area.

The Local Authority makes no subsidy towards practising midwives.

There was no change in this service during the year.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Wakefield. Autogenous vaccines and sera are supplied free of charge to local medical men requiring same.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied free of charge to any medical practitioner requiring it.

The investigation of maternal deaths, and cases of puerperal fever or puerperal pyrexia, is undertaken by the County Medical Officer of Health.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Infectious cases are removed by an Ambulance from the Fielden Hospital free of charge. Non-infectious and accident cases are removed by an ambulance jointly owned by the Hepton Rural Council and Hebden Royd Urban Council. Subscribers to the Hebden Bridge and District Nursing Institution are entitled to free use of the Ambulance—there is a nominal charge made for non-subscribers. The present Gift Ambulance is, in my opinion, no longer suitable for the work in this area.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre established in Hebden Bridge. A Clinic for mothers and babies is held twice weekly, under the supervision of a Lady Doctor and two Nurses. The attendances at this Clinic have increased considerably in recent years.

An Ante-Natal Clinic is being well attended. It is under the supervision of a Lady Doctor, and is held on the first, second and fourth Friday of each month at 1 p.m.

U.V.R. Treatment Clinics are held twice weekly, Tuesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at this Centre, and are attended by the Health Visitor and Doctor.

Arrangements have been made by the County Council whereby pre-school and school children can be immunised free of charge either at suitable centres or at the schools or by their own medical attendant.

The "Welcome" Diphtheria Prophylactic A.P.T. is used for inoculation, and two injections are given at monthly intervals. The results so far as I can ascertain have been excellent.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries are held weekly at both Todmorden and Sowerby Bridge. The distance to either of these dispensaries is about four miles from most parts of this area.

The nearest treatment centre for venereal diseases is at the Royal Halifax Infirmary. Other free treatment Clinics are at Burnley and Keighley.

The Clinics referred to are under the control of the West Riding County Council.

There was no change during the year.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

During the year 1947 there was a marked increase in the number of cases of measles notified; this disease tends to increase usually at two year intervals. Two cases of poliomyelitis occurred, one of which was fatal. The epidemic in the summer and autumn was the largest outbreak of this disease ever recorded in England.

There was no case of Diphtheria notified during the year. The campaign against this disease was carried on throughout the year. The Health Visitor reminds parents of the vital necessity of having their children immunised against diphtheria; also each child on its first birthday receives a birthday card stressing the importance of immunisation. The Diphtheria Immunisation Return for the year ended 31st December, 1947, showed 142 children out of 293 in the under 5 group, and 276 out of 414 children in the 5 to 15 group as having completed a full course of immunisation against diphtheria.

Five cases of Whooping Cough and 66 cases of Measles were notified. I am still of the opinion regarding the fevers, measles and whooping cough, that the number of cases notified does not at all cover the number of cases occurring. Many parents do not seem to realise how infectious these diseases are, and do not keep their children isolated, this failure making it impossible to check or control epidemics, or make any accurate survey of this disease. There were four cases of Scabies notified to the Public Health Department for treatment during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1947

DISEASE	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	4	4	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	5	0	0
Measles	66	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis	2	2	1

Disease.	Age Periods.										
	0	1	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	55	65 or over
Scarlet Fever				3	1						
Diphtheria											
Poliomyelitis					1					1	
Pneumonia				1			1				
Erysipelas											
Puerperal Pyrexia											
Smallpox											
Measles		41	23	1	1						
Whooping Cough	1	1	3								

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 176.—No action taken.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1947

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5 .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
10 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
35	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
45	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
55 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 and upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ...	4	0	2	0	1	0	0	0

There was one death from Tuberculosis during the year
 PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF
 TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925

No action was deemed necessary to be taken under
 these Regulations.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. SECTION 172.

No action has been found necessary to be taken under
 this Section during 1947.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

R. C. WEBSTER,

B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.,

Medical Officer of Health

Statement of Notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year 1947

NAME OF DISTRICT—HEPTON RURAL

Cases notified or otherwise ascertained.		Cases removed to Hospital.	
0	Smallpox	0	Smallpox
4	Scarlet Fever	4	Scarlet Fever
0	Diphtheria including Mem. Group	0	Diphtheria
0	Enteric or Typhoid fever (excluding paratyphoid)	2	Poliomyelitis
0	Paratyphoid	0	Enteric Fever and Paratyphoid
2	Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenzal)	0	Pneumonia
0	Puerperal Pyrexia		
0	Cerebral-Spinal Fever		
2	Acute Poliomyelitis		
0	Acute Poli-Encephalitis		
0	Acute Encephalitis Lethargica		
0	Dysentery		
0	Ophthalmia Neonatorum		
0	Erysipelas		
2	Respiratory Tuberculosis (new cases only)		
0	Other forms of Tuberculosis (new cases only)		
0	Contracted in this Country		
0	Contracted Abroad		
0	Induced in Institutions†		
x	Chickenpox		
66	Measles (excluding German Measles or Rubella)		
5	Whooping Cough		

Malaria

Chickenpox.—Was this disease compulsorily notifiable in your district during the year 1947?—No.

If so, please state period If it was not compulsorily notifiable, but was known to be prevalent during 1947, please write a "x" in the appropriate column of the above table.

Respiratory and Other Forms of Tuberculosis.—Under these headings include only the numbers of primary cases. notifications of institutional admissions and discharges should not be included.

† Notified under the proviso to Article 5 of the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1927.

R. C. WEBSTER, Medical Officer of Health.

HEPTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

Year ending December 31st, 1947

Health Department,

District Bank Chambers,

Hebden Bridge.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hepton
Rural District Council

Sir and Members,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Sanitary Inspector to the Hepton Rural District Council, in which you will find a brief review of the work of this department and the sanitary conditions in the area for year 1947.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and members of the Council for the help and assistance given in the carrying out of my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WALTER SMITH, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector.

Water Supplies

There is no change to report in respect of water supplies in the district. Complaints have been received during the year regarding a number of private water supplies. Wherever possible, steps have been taken to remedy the complaints.

but the only satisfactory solution is a public mains supply, and it is to be hoped that the Council will be able to proceed in the near future with the schemes which have been prepared.

Drainage and Sewerage

The districts of Blackshaw and Wadsworth, with the exception of the parts adjoining the Urban District of Hebden Bridge, still requiring sewerage, and as in the case of the water schemes, it is to be desired that the Council proceed in the near future.

Closet Accommodation

Little progress has been made with closet conversions during the year. Very few people have taken advantage of the Council's grant towards cost.

Milk Supply

The conditions under which milk is produced in the area are generally good.

Housing

Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:—

- | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) Total number of houses inspected (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | ... | ... | ... | 132 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | ... | ... | ... | 132 |

Housing conditions in many parts of the district are most unsatisfactory. During the war years little or no repair work was carried out, and at present it is difficult for owners to obtain the necessary labour and materials. As a result, the number of houses which cannot be made fit in all respects for human habitation is steadily increasing.

No further progress has been made with the Rural Housing Survey owing to lack of staff.

Public Cleansing

Public cleansing, refuse disposal and salvage collection is carried out in all accessible parts of the district, and has cost £1,844 over the past year.

During the year 20 tons 5 cwts. of salvage, valued at £141 was collected and sold.

Nuisance Inspections

Total number of Inspections made in 1947 for Nuisances only 288
(Not including Housing Inspections)

Nuisances found in 1947	...	...	...	...	...	39
Nuisances in hand end of 1946	...	...	...	...	...	5
Total needing abatement	...	...	...	...	...	12
Abated during 1947	...	...	...	...	...	32
Outstanding end of 1947	...	...	...	...	...	12
Notices Served, Informal	.....	38	Complied with	30		
Notices Served, Statutory	.....	4	Complied with	2		
Total No. of Summonses or other legal proceedings	...	None				

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	No. in District	No. on Register	Total No. of Inspections Made	General Conditions	Legal Pro- ceedings
Common Lodging Houses	0	.. 0	.. 0	.. —	—
Canal Boats	.. .. 0	.. 0	.. 0	.. —	—
Knackers' Yards	.. .. 0	.. 0	.. 0	.. —	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds	.. 33	.. 0	.. 0	.. —	—
Offensive Trades (Tripe Works)	.. .. 0	.. 0	.. 0	.. —	—

Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades?—No.

Drainage and Sewerage

Particulars of any sewer extensions during 1947 None

Scheme prepared and submitted to M.O.H. for Parish of Wadsworth.

Details of any portion of District still requiring—

(a) Sewering Wadsworth and parts of Heptonstall,
Blackshaw and Erringden.

(b) Improvement of defective sewers Heptonstall.
No. of houses not connected to sewers 890

Sewage Disposal Works

Particulars of any extensions made during 1947 None

Any inadequacy of sewage disposal works? Kingdom
Fields, serving Parish of Heptonstall.

Any complaint from West Riding Rivers Board? No

Closet Accommodation

Number of Privies with open middens 8

Number of Pail or Tub Closets 488

Number of Privies with covered middens 52

Number of Water Closets 411

Waste Water Closets 0

No. of Privies reconstructed during 1947—(a) as w.c.'s 1

(b) Other 0

No. of Closets other than Privies reconstructed during
1947 as w.c.'s 0

No. of additional Closets provided for old property in
1947 as (a) w.c.'s, 0. (b) Other 0

No. of Closets constructed in 1947 for new houses
(a) w.c.'s, 10. (b) Other 0

Any special action taken by Council to secure conversion
of Privies, Waste Water Closets and Pails to
w.c. system. If so, what?—A grant of £7 10s.
is made towards the cost of each conversion.

Scavenging

Is public scavenging in operation throughout the whole
District?—No.

If not, is it in operation in any part of the area? If so,
please specify part or parts—All accessible parts.

How is refuse disposed of?—1, Destruction, None. 2,
Tipping, 100 per cent. 3, Farmers, None.

If tipping is in operation, is it on the controlled system?—
Yes.

Total annual cost of collection and disposal of refuse, £1,844,

Particulars of any extension or improvement in the service
during the year, None.

Water Supply

Source of supply—Heptonstall supply purchased in bulk from Halifax Corporation, otherwise from wells and springs.

By whom distributed—Hepton Rural Council.

Number of dwellinghouses on public supply—335.

Any extension of supply during the year?—None.

Has supply been satisfactory?—Main Supply, Yes. (a) In quality—Yes. (b) In Quantity—Yes.

Number of examinations made during the year (a) chemical—None. Result— (b) Bacteriological—4. Result—Satisfactory.

Have any supplies been restricted or closed, if so, where?—None.

Milk Supply

Number of Milk Samples taken by officers of local authority for analysis under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and Food and Drugs Act, 1938—None.

Number found adulterated—None. No. of Prosecutions—None.

Number of samples of ordinary Milk taken by officers of local authority for (a) Methylene blue test—6; (b) Presence of tuberculosis—None.

Any special examination of milk for dirt, e.g., sedimentation test?—None.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk during 1947?—No.

Number of Cowkeepers in district—250. No. registered—119.

Total number of Cowsheds—171. Total number of milk cows—1260

Total number of Cowsheds inspected during the year—90.

Total number of cowshed inspections—90.

Number of wholesale traders registered—69.

Number of retail milk sellers registered—50.

Have any retailers been removed from the register?

Observations as to structural conditions, cleanliness, and methods of production and handling of milk—There is a steady improvement in structural conditions, cleanliness and methods of production.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938.

	No. of Licences in force in area for:			Samples of designated milks examined bacteriologically:		Total
				Number satisfactory.	Number unsatisfactory	
(a) Production of " Tuberculin Tested " Milk	16	...		3	1	4
(b) Production of " Accredited " Milk	...	12	...	1	1	2
(c) In respect of Pasteurising Plants	...	None—Further samples are taken by the W.R.C.C.				

(d) No. of Licences in force for bottling " Tuberculin Tested " or " Accredited " Milk, other than at place of production—None.

Meat Inspection

Slaughter Houses in District closed down.

Other Foods

Number of samples (other than milk) taken by officers of L.A. for examination under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

No. found adulterated. No. of prosecutions.
 No. of Bakehouses in district—3. Total inspections—6.

Are any of bakehouses underground, if so, how many?—No.

Shops Act, 1934, Sections 10 and 13 (3)

No. of visits paid under the above Act during 1947—4.

Unsatisfactory conditions found—0. Remedied—0.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

Number in District—33.

Is this class of dwelling showing signs of increase?—No.

Have Council made byelaws under Section 268(4), Public Health Act, 1936?—No.

Swimming Baths and Pools

Are there in the district: Any public swimming baths or pools?—No.

Any privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public?—No.

Byelaws and Regulations in force in District

Common Lodging Houses, May, 1928

Building Byelaws, August, 1939.

Mortuaries

What accommodation—

- (a) For accidents?—One at Lewis Holme, Hebden Bridge.
- (b) For infectious cases other than at hospital?—None.
- (c) For other cases?—None.
- (d) For post-mortem examinations?—One at Lewis Holme, Hebden Bridge.

